

Neurocritical Care

Shutter L, Molyneaux B, eds. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2018, 328 pages, Paperback \$59.95 (USD), ISBN: 978-0-199-37534-9

Neurocritical care has become a major subspecialty of critical care medicine. Essential advances in monitoring, diagnostics, and therapy over the past years have contributed to a better understanding and treatment of patients with neurological impairment. These patients, who are becoming sicker and are increasing in number, are being admitted to intensive care units with conditions including neuromuscular diseases, infections, tumors, stroke, hemorrhage, or other conditions with impaired consciousness.

The first edition of *Neurocritical Care*, edited by Lori Shutter and Bradley Molyneaux, belongs to the Pittsburgh Critical Care Medicine series edited by John A. Kellum. The series is dedicated to important subspecialties in critical care medicine. Each book gives a brief and concise overview of the field's subspecialties, with the latest book being an essential addition to the series. It is available in paperback and as an e-Book for a variety of software applications. Unfortunately, the e-Book does not provide any additional material such as web links or supplemental data.

The first section of the book focuses on the management of key neurological conditions such as acute ischemic stroke, intracerebral or subarachnoid hemorrhage, and traumatic brain or spinal cord injury. These are of great interest for anesthesiologists, who are fundamentally involved in the treatment of these patients. Section 2 provides guidance on interventions and monitoring, including topics such as neuroimaging and pharmacology. The third section addresses the management of both standard and rare conditions, such

as pediatric neurocritical care in pregnant patients. These chapters are especially valuable given that physicians are often challenged by conditions they rarely encounter.

Each of the 27 chapters is written by authors who are well respected in their fields and is referenced with the latest research on that subject. Descriptive tables provide a compact overview and are an ideal reference for all health care providers involved in neurocritical care. The further readings section at the end of each chapter provides outstanding references for anyone who would like more in-depth knowledge of the specific subject.

One concern is that neuro-oncology is not covered in detail in spite of the fact that both children and adults with neuro-oncological problems need specialized perioperative and critical care. The same is true for neuroendovascular diagnosis and interventional neuroradiology, which are only described very briefly, although these procedures have become extremely important in neurocritical care. We hope that this omission will be addressed in future editions.

Overall, this well-structured book provides comprehensive guidance for a range of neurocritical conditions and highlights important considerations for state-of-the-art treatment in everyday practice. Health care providers involved in the care of critically ill patients with neurological conditions would do well to read this book, which fits into every coat pocket.

Lea C. Kistler, MD

Markus M. Luedi, MD, MBA

Department of Anesthesiology

Inselspital, Bern University Hospital

University of Bern

Bern, Switzerland

markus.luedi2@insel.ch